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Air Force Accuses Missile Officer of 10 Additional

WASHINGTON, June 18 (UPI) — The Air Force broadened its case against Second Lieut. Christopher Cooke on Thursday, accusing the 25-year-old missile-launching officer of passing military information to unauthorized persons on five occasions and of making contact with Soviet officials 13 times in the last year.

One of the persons allegedly given information was not a Soviet official, Defense Department sources said.

The new charges against Lieutenant Cooke could mean that, if convicted, he would face a maximum sentence of 76 years' imprisonment at hard labor.

Charged With Three Visits

An Air Force hearing, similar to a grand jury proceeding, to determine whether there is enough evidence against the officer to court-martial him, is in progress at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. The hearing opened Tuesday.

Lieutenant Cooke was charged on May 28 with visiting the Soviet Embassy in

Washington three times in the previous five months without informing his superior officers. He was deputy commander of a four-man Titan 2 missile complex at McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas.

Under the new charges, a result of a continuing Air Force investigation, Lieutenant Cooke is accused of talking to Soviet officials 10 additional times since last June without reporting the contacts to his superiors.

No Further Arrests Expected

Defense Department sources said that some of the alleged contacts involved visits to the Soviet Embassy. Whether other contacts were in person outside the embassy or by telephone is not known.

In addition, the officer was charged with passing military information five times "to a person or persons not authorized access to such information." The sources said that some of that information was allegedly passed in a letter to

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someone other than a Soviet official. "The general subject matter was missiles," one source said.

The sources said they did not expect further arrests to be made in the case despite the existence of the letter to someone other than a Soviet official. The sources, who requested anonymity, could not identify the recipient of the letter.

If convicted, Lieutenant Cooke would face a maximum sentence of 10 years at hard labor for each of the five counts on the charge of passing information, plus a maximum of two years at hard labor on each of the 10 counts of visiting or talking to Soviet officials without reporting such contacts, the Air Force said. The original charge of three unreported visits to the Soviet Embassy carries a maximum of two years at hard labor on each count.

Two Air Force lawyers are defending Lieutenant Cooke, but he has also retained F. Lee Bailey of Boston, the defense lawyer.

The Justice Department is conducting a separate investigation to determine whether Lieutenant Cooke can be charged with violating the espionage laws. He is being held in confinement at Fort Meade, Md.